Warning against the Khawārij

(booklet translated)

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The Voice of Jihad

A Warning Against the Khawārij By Shaykh ʿAbdullāh ibn Muḥammad al-Rashūd

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The way of the modern Khawārij is closely connected to their earlier rebellious predecessors. Some people who claim to have knowledge and to call others to Islam spread confusion and deception today. They try to distance themselves from the serious errors of the Khawārij by accusing others of them. They make it seem to people with little knowledge that the forbidden rebellion (*khurūj*) actually means standing against the tāghūt (a ruler who allies with the Jews and Christians) and exposing his secret plans in a way they describe as Islamic and based on jihād, against him, his supporters, and those who back him from the crusader military and intelligence groups. These groups are spread across parts of the Arabian Peninsula in important positions, helping direct the country's military against Muslims inside and outside the land.

Because of this, this tāghūt – who breaks the limits set by Allāh but follows the rules of the United Nations – finds people who try to justify these acts of disbelief, which are clearly known from the Qur'an and Sunnah. They misuse religious texts to make his actions seem acceptable in Islam, placing the texts in the wrong situations. They even use texts about the sacredness of Muslim blood and honor when speaking about the worshippers of the cross, who are fighting Allāh, His Messenger, and the Muslims by occupying Muslim lands. At the same time, they use texts that command fighting disbelievers and being firm against them, applying them instead to the believing Muslims who worship Allāh alone and strive in His cause. This matches the authentic hadith:

"They will kill the people of Islam and leave the people of idols."

Today, it can be said that they cry over the deaths of a few worshippers of the cross, but they do not feel anything for the deaths of thousands of Muslims

They become very emotional and protective over apostates, speaking a lot about the sanctity of their blood and the harms of harming them, while blaming those who care about the suffering of Muslims or try to defend them, even if only by speaking. They describe such people as causing fitnah and spreading problems among Muslims.

So a Muslim – whose thinking may be affected by the media of the tawāghīt,

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which confuses his understanding of the meanings of the texts – should be clear about his religion and aware of what is happening around him. He should deal with events based on clear, correct Islamic knowledge, not on

emotional and confusing speech. This kind of speech is often made by people with weak and false ideas – from the leaders of the crusaders, their helpers, and those who follow them, including some who appear religious but go against Islam. These people claim to have knowledge and call others to Islam, but their actions and methods are wrong. They admire themselves and their ideas, and many people are impressed by them, especially those who do not study the religious texts deeply or understand their proper meanings. In al-Mustadrak of al-Hākim,

the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم mentioned a group that would appear in his Ummah along with ikhtilaf (disagreements), then said:

"There will come a people who will impress you, and they will be impressed with themselves…They will kill them – they are closer to Allāh than them. They speak well but act badly, and they call to Allāh while having nothing to do with Him. So when you meet them, then kill them." They said: O Messenger of Allāh, describe them to us. He said: "Their sign is shaving and excessive strictness."

The similarities between the Khawārij of today and those of the past are clear. In fact, the deviation of the modern Khawārij is even more obvious and severe than that of the earlier ones. This is shown by the texts and by what we see in reality. So be very careful, O Muslim brother, of the misguidance of those who mislead and the loud calls of those who spread confusion. Raise your hands in sincere supplication to Allāh, the Ever-Living, and ask Him for guidance, correctness, and protection from trials that lead people astray. It is mentioned in a hadith qudsī in Sahīh Muslim and others:

"O My servants, all of you are astray except those whom I guide, so ask Me for guidance and I will guide you…"

So turn humbly to the One who guides and gives victory, the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing, and ask Him to keep you firm upon the truth and to grant you safety in your religion and your worldly life. It is also reported in a hadith:

“There will come a time upon the people when no one will be saved except the one who calls upon Allāh like a drowning person”

Or something similar. I will try to explain these meanings in a short, beneficial, and practical treatise that connects directly to real life, especially focusing on the situation of the mujahidīn and their enemies from among our own people in the Arabian Peninsula. I will compare this reality with the texts that describe the Khawārij and their characteristics. It will be widespread soon, if Allāh wills.

May Allāh guide us and you to what is correct, and protect us from desires and trials, both open and hidden. And may Allāh send peace and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon his family and companions.

The people of the frontlines said:

“You must know that the path of jihād is difficult and long… and it is not easy for many people to continue on it, even if they are very excited at the beginning. Strong emotions and eagerness for jihād must be joined with preparing oneself to hardships and training oneself to be patient through difficulties. Many young people came with enthusiasm, but then their motivation slowly faded, until some of them even began to question the ruling of jihād itself!” -Shaykh ʿAbdullāh ʿAzzām, may Allāh have mercy on him